Effect of import of cheap palm oil

†3333. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cheap palm oil imported from abroad, has broken the back of oilseed producing farmers;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the light of WTO agreement, import duty on palm oil could be imposed upto 300 per cent whereas on the contrary, because of import duty rate howering between 80 per cent and 90 per cent here, palm oil imported from several countries including Malaysia and Indonesia has ruined the oilseed production in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The gap between domestic demand production is met by imports. The import duty of Palm oil was bound at 300% through negotiations under W.T.O. However the effective rate of duty is determined keeping in view the interests of domestic producers and consumers.

Steps to stop import of harmful fruit drinks

3334. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the products especially branded fruit drinks not having any fruit content other than synthetic mixture of toxic items, are being imported and sold in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to control such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In terms of Foreign Trade Policy

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.